

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 1-17 are currently pending and stand rejected. Applicant has amended claims 1-17 and added claims 19-25. No new matter has been added.

Formal issues

The Office Action objected to the specification and asserted that the application does not contain an Abstract of the Disclosure. Applicant respectfully notes that, according to Applicant's records, the application did contain an Abstract. A copy of the Abstract filed with the application is attached as Appendix A. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is therefore respectfully requested.

§ 112 rejections

Claims 9-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has corrected the informalities helpfully noted by the Examiner to obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting structural cooperative elements. Applicants respectfully note that claims 12 through 14 are directed to different embodiments and are therefore not contradictory. Claim 12 covers an embodiment where, for example, the adjacent structure is a vehicle body and the latch is attached to a vehicle body. In this example, claim 14 would cover an embodiment where the latch is attached to a trunk lid (thereby making the latch movable with respect to the vehicle body). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

§ 102 rejection

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,836,591 to Faust ("Faust"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the connector 264 in Faust is not an intermediate cable pull mechanism or any other actuatable device. Instead, the connector 264 is simply a

support structure that connects a platform 256 to a bare portion of the cable 226 (Figure 7; col., 6, lines 13-26). The connector 264 itself is not actuatable via any means to move the cable ends. Instead, movement of the cable is conducted only by pulling on a handle 36; the movement of the connector 264 is simply in response to the pulling of the handle 36 (col. 6, lines 27-48).

Further, Faust's device is directed to a vehicle hood and not a vehicle trunk. Thus, there is no reason to include an intermediate cable pull mechanism between the two cable ends in the first place because there is no way for a person to access the middle of the cable when the hood is closed. Because Faust fails to disclose or suggest an intermediate cable pull mechanism, Faust fails to anticipate claims 1-17. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge \$72.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for four claims in excess of 20. Should any additional fees be necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on this 2nd day of April, 2003.



Beth A. Beard

APPENDIX A

ABSTRACT

B17
A cable (10) for connection at a first cable end (12A) to a remote cable pull means (30) and for connection at a second cable end (12B) to a latch (32), movement of the first cable end causing movement of the second cable end and in which an intermediate cable pull means (14) is provided between the first and second ends, movement of which causes movement of the second cable end. (Figure 1)
